

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

WH - GEN. SCROWCROFT

S/S - MR. GAMMON

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 159712

EXDIS

E.O. 11652

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, IS, LE

SUBJ: AIRCRAFT DIVERSION INCIDENT IN UNSC

REF: USUN 2853

1. FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE FOR USE IN SECURITY COUNCIL
CONSIDERATION OF MEA AIRCRAFT DIVERSION INCIDENT.

2. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASE SEEM CLEAR. ABSENT NEW
INFORMATION, WE MUST CONCLUDE ISRAELIS VIOLATED LEBANESE
AIR SPACE AND SOVEREIGNTY AND INTERFERED UNLAWFULLY WITH
CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT IN NORMAL FLIGHT.

3. IN THIS INSTANCE WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD ACCEPT
ARGUMENT THAT TERRORISM PREVIOUSLY PERPETRATED AGAINST
ISRAELI NATIONALS, IN AND OUTSIDE ISRAEL, JUSTIFIES
REPRISAL EFFORTS WHICH JEOPARDIZE LIVES OF INNOCENT
PARTIES. AS WE HAVE REPEATEDLY ASSERTED, CYCLE OF
VIOLENCE AND COUNTER-VIOLENCE CAN ONLY BE BROKEN IF
ALL STATES CONCERNED MEET THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER
INTERNATIONAL LAW TO EXERCISE DUE DILIGENCE TO COUNTERACT
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TERRORISM CONDUCTED IN OR FROM THEIR TERRITORIES.

4. SIMILARLY, WE SEE NO UTILITY IN THIS INSTANCE TO
BROADENING SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION TO ENCOMPASS
FULL SCALE CONSIDERATION OF PROBLEM OF TERRORISM IN

GENERAL. IN OUR JUDGMENT THERE MAY WELL BE UNANIMOUS SUPPORT IN SC FOR A RESOLUTION CENSURING ISRAEL FOR THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT; IN FACT, INTRODUCTION OF SUCH A RESOLUTION SEEMS UNAVOIDABLE.

5. WE DO NOT WISH TO GET IN FRONT IN NEGOTIATING A DRAFT RESOLUTION. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES WE CAN SAY THAT, SUBJECT TO INFORMATION REGARDING SPECIFIC TEXTS, AND IN LIGHT OF OUR OVERALL INTEREST IN LAWFUL BEHAVIOR BY ALL CONCERNED, WE PREPARED TO GIVE OUR SUPPORT TO A PROPERLY PHRASED RESOLUTION. WE WOULD SUPPORT CONDEMNATORY LANGUAGE, AND YOU MAY SO INFORM GHORRA. OUR OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO GET SC DISCUSSION CONCLUDED QUICKLY.

6. ACCORDINGLY, WE HOPE COUNCIL WILL NOT ENGAGE IN INSTANT REPLAY OF BROAD SCALE DEBATE ON ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM WHICH TOOK PLACE ONLY LAST MONTH. NOTHING WOULD BE GAINED BY SUCH A DEBATE, AND IT MIGHT JEOPARDIZE WHATEVER PROSPECTS THERE MIGHT BE FOR ANY NEW LEAD ARISING OUT OF SYG WALDHEIM'S IMPENDING VISIT TO AREA.

7. WE OBVIOUSLY COULD NOT ACCEPT ANY RESOLUTION INVOLVING SANCTIONS IN THIS AREA, WHICH WE RECOGNIZE MAY BE MOST DIFFICULT ASPECT OF DEBATE FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW. ARGUMENT YOU SHOULD USE HERE IS THAT MEASURES AGAINST THOSE WHO VIOLATE RULE OF LAW IN CIVIL AVIATION SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN CONTEXT OF APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND BODIES AND SHOULD BE OF GENERAL APPLICABILITY.

8. YOU WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE READY TO RESPOND IN A LOW KEY TO CHARGES LIKELY TO BE MADE AT US DIRECTLY.

9. WE ARE TRANSMITTING SEPARATELY A FIRST DRAFT OF A STATEMENT FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. WE ASSUME PARTIES PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED WILL SPEAK AT AUGUST 13 AFTERNOON
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MEETING AND THAT AS PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL THIS MONTH WE WILL SPEAK LATE IN DISCUSSION, NOT BEFORE AUGUST 14. ROGERS

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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